



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Richard J. Visingardi, Ph. D., Director

January 5, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
MH/DD/SAS Commission
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs
Advocacy Organizations and Groups
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
County Managers
County Manager Chairs
North Carolina Council of Community Programs
Area Program Directors
Area Program Board Chairs
Provider Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
Other MH/DD/SAS Stakeholders

From: Richard J. Visingardi, Ph.D.

Re: **Communication Bulletin # 014**
Deputy Director

State Plan 2003
Communication Bulletin

I am very pleased to announce that Ms. Leza Wainwright is the new Deputy Director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Wainwright will begin working in this new role immediately.

The Deputy Director serves as the key leader in moving public policy forward through the operations and product development efforts of the Division. Operations and development are particularly critical as we continue the process of implementing system reform. Furthermore, the Chiefs of the State Operated Services, Public Policy Management and Resource and Regulatory Management sections directly report to the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director also serves as Division Director in the Directors absence.

Ms. Wainwright has most recently been the Team Leader of the Budget and Finance Team in the Resource and Regulatory Management Section of the Division. In this role Ms. Wainwright has been responsible for leadership in budget and finance planning and management. Ms. Wainwright has had extensive and diverse public experience including working in the Department of Commerce and with the Controllers Office and Division of Social Services in the Department of

Health and Human Services. Ms. Wainwright holds a Master of Business Administration degree ('86) and a Bachelor of Arts ('75) degree from Meredith College.

In working with Ms. Wainwright I have been thoroughly impressed with her commitment to the fundamental philosophy and value we support as well as her practice and leadership competencies. Ms. Wainwright brings with her the broad-based systems understanding and knowledge required of a Deputy Director. Furthermore, Ms. Wainwright has demonstrated sound leadership abilities in working and problem solving with internal staff as well as external and diverse stakeholders.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Wainwright into her new role. We are fortunate to have such an exemplar leader join the ranks of our executive leadership.

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Lanier Cansler
James Bernstein
Mark Van Sciver
MH/DD/SA Staff